



The DAS Digest

February 2022

DAS partner, the Dementia Spotlight Foundation, hosts successful fundraising concert and raises \$100,000

The Dementia Spotlight Foundation (DSF), a 501(c)(3) established in 2016, hosted their 9th annual Alzheimer’s Music Fest on February 4, 2022, at the Buckhead Theater in Atlanta. The DAS Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias (GARD) Coordinator, Aline Stone, attended the event on behalf of DAS to share materials and support the foundation’s efforts. “The foundation has been a great partner for GARD, with DSF Founder Whitney Oeltmann being a key leader in our dementia-friendly efforts.” Stone said.

DAS partners with DSF to provide resources and education to families and individuals living with dementia. The foundation is dedicated to helping others through advocacy, the arts and dementia education. The foundation is able to accomplish this work through its annual fundraiser, the Alzheimer’s Music Fest. This year’s benefit concert featured three legendary Georgia bands and raised the most in donations over years past. This year over 800 people attended the event and \$100,000 was raised for the Foundation. The three previous events raised a combined amount of \$70,000. The donations from the event will make a huge difference in the lives of those living with dementia and their caregivers.

The foundation was created by Whitney DeMarlo Oeltmann after her father’s dementia diagnosis in 2012. At the time, she found that there was a lack of information, family resources and support for those living with dementia and their caregivers. She is committed to using the DSF to raise public awareness of dementia-related diseases and help the caregivers of those living with dementia.

To learn more about the Dementia Spotlight Foundation and the Alzheimer’s Music Fest, please visit our website.

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DAS resources and information was provided to guests at the Alzheimer’s Music Fest.



Dementia Spotlight Foundation founder Whitney Oeltmann and Arrested Development lead singer, Speech prior to the benefit concert.



DAS GARD Coordinator Aline Stone volunteered at the event and provided information about DAS services and resources.

Staff Shoutouts

Great job by APS Section Manager, **Cathy Bahadur**, for representing Georgia at the Adult Protective Services Technical Assistance Resource Center webinar. Her presentation was very well received. Thanks, Cathy!

Shout out to APS team members **Gail Knott, Mikayla Eaton, Briana Whitford** and **Daunte Thompson** (TERF Supervisor) for working long hours on a relocation from an unlicensed personal care home case. A big thank you to Daunte for locating placements and thinking outside the box to get Uber to transport a couple of clients to their new personal care homes.



Pictured are the APS Coastal South team members that participated (left to right): Rayniel Johnson, Sharon Harrell, Cheryl Lamb and Shannon Gooch.

The APS team in **Coastal South** recently visited the St. Mary's Senior Center and met with the staff. They educated them about APS, provided details on common misconceptions, discussed how and where to make an APS report and shared what APS does during an investigation to assist a client in need. They also talked about how they could collaborate and work together. There was a great turnout, and staff at the St. Mary's Senior Center were very appreciative of all APS does to help keep our communities safe.

Andre'a Glasper, Adult Protective Services District D Manager, spoke at the Georgia Association of Community Care Providers Winter Meeting on Feb. 17, 2022. This is a group of providers across the state of Georgia that assists persons who are elderly and/or functionally impaired to continue to live in the community. Andre'a gave a 45-minute presentation to 200 attendees on Adult Protective Services. He shared an overview of Adult Protective Services, how to make an APS report, red flags to watch for, the investigative



APS District D Manager, Andre'a Glasper presented an overview of Adult Protective Services to care providers.

process, how providers can assist and much more. He was very engaging with the crowd, answered questions afterward and had numerous compliments on his presentation. Thank you, Andre'a, for representing APS so well!

The Forensic Special Initiatives Unit (FSIU) is excited to welcome their newest team member, **Mark Fellows**. Fellows is a financial forensic specialist with FSIU. After serving in the US Army from 1990 to 1994 as a military police officer, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a master's degree in Maritime Studies. In 2001, he joined the Clayton County Police Department as a uniform patrol officer. Fellows moved to the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office in 2004, where he was assigned to uniform patrol, crime scene investigations, dive team, honor guard and the mobile command vehicle. In 2008, he joined the City of McDonough Police Department. There, he worked in uniform patrol, uniform patrol sergeant and criminal investigations with a specialization in economic crimes. Fellows is a Certified Fraud Examiner, Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) Certified Instructor and P.O.S.T. certified Crime Scene Investigator. DAS and FSIU are excited to have Mark as part of our team!

Program Highlights

How DAS sections serve Georgians: 60 seconds with Livable Communities

The Livable Communities Team within DAS is full of passionate people who oversee Older Americans Act programs, disaster preparedness, Alzheimer's and Related Dementias and senior hunger.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was established in 1965 and helps older adults (those 60 and older) remain in the place of their choosing, which in most cases is their home. The programs and services under the OAA include nutrition, like home-delivered meals and congregate meals; caregiver services, like respite, in-home services, like personal care and homemaking; and case management and evidence-based programs, which include chronic disease management and falls prevention.

Disaster preparedness is something we all need to think about, but it is especially important at the state level. The disaster preparedness coordinator works as a liaison to Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). In the event of a disaster, weather-related or not, we know our clients will be accounted for and taken care of due to the efforts of the disaster preparedness coordinator and others like the Public Guardianship Office.

There are two coordinators at the state level for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias. One oversees the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan, and the other oversees the Georgia Memory Net. The state plan addresses the ever-growing number of Georgians with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia and how Georgia can respond to their needs. There is also an advisory council comprised of local officials, state and public offices, non-profits and those with lived experience and their care partner(s). The Georgia Memory Net is a system of five Memory Assessment Clinics around the state that have a goal of early detection and diagnosis, and then connect patients to the ADRC and the Alzheimer's Association for resources.

Addressing senior hunger in Georgia has been a priority of the agency's for many years. This issue led to the implementation of the first state plan to address senior hunger in 2016 and the hiring of a senior hunger nutrition coordinator. Since 2016, DAS has held five

annual senior hunger summits, created 12 senior hunger regional coalitions and the agency has met all the recommendations in the state plan. During this time, Georgia has made improvements and is no longer in the top 10 list of states with seniors at risk of senior hunger. DAS is proud to be a critical part of the movement happening in Georgia to address senior hunger!

For more information about your options to stay in your home and community, visit us online at georgiaadrc.com or call us at **1-866-552-4464**.

Legacy Link AAA drums up volunteer interest at community event

On Feb. 5, many of the Legacy Link AAA staff members attended a volunteer event at The Villages of Deaton Creek, a 55+ active living community in Hall County. Staff provided program information on senior services to those in attendance. They also sought volunteers to assist with home-delivered meals and the GeorgiaCares State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).

GeorgiaCares

Local help for people with Medicare

SHIP is a trusted source for Medicare information. The program is volunteer-based and provides free and unbiased information to assist beneficiaries and their caregivers on Medicare, Medicaid and other related health insurance. To learn more about GeorgiaCares SHIP, please visit aging.georgia.gov/georgiacares-ship



Hall County community members stopped by the Legacy Link AAA booth to learn more about services and volunteer opportunities.



DAS celebrates February milestone anniversaries with staff

DAS honors the milestone anniversaries of our long-time employees. This February, DAS celebrated anniversaries for seven employees. Thank you for your many **years of service** to help Georgia's seniors and disabled adults live healthier and stronger lives.

Elaine Popham – 20

Jennifer Ruddell – 15

Angela Whitaker – 6

Sasha Jennings – 5

Malika Rhodes – 15

Cathy Tharpe – 7

Lesley Barrett – 5

Several new hires joined DAS as part of an integral team

In February, DAS onboarded several new employees, featured below. We are excited to have them on our team as we continue to support Georgia's aging population.

Landra Williams

Brittany Battiste

Arkieva Jackson

Kendra Brown

Dashia Black

Antonio Cliett

Taylor Moore

T'air Bell

Anna Davis

Upcoming Webinars

REACT Training for Mandated Reporters

March 11 at 10 a.m.

The GBI CADE Task Force invites mandated reporters and those interested in learning about protecting vulnerable adults to attend our one-hour REACT training. REACT training covers the basic types of elder and disabled adult abuse, Georgia laws on mandated reporting and reporting resources.

[Register here](#) for REACT.

At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics Certification Course

March 15 and 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

An At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics (ACT) Specialist is a professional trained in recognizing and responding to the abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults. An ACT Certified Specialist is knowledgeable in identifying at-risk adult abuse, understands the different types of abuse, the role of adult protective services and how to identify available resources. ACT training is not open to the general public. Applicants must be first responders or work in a field that requires mandated reporting of vulnerable adult abuse.

To register for this training, email david.blake@dhs.ga.gov or anna.thomas1@dhs.ga.gov.

Share Your Story



Do you know someone who will be 100 years of age or older this year? Share their story with kaylan.storey@dhs.ga.gov, so we can highlight them on our social media pages.

[Click here](#) to request a DHS Centenarian Recognition Certificate. Please submit requests 45 days in advance of the honoree's birthday.



Do you have a story idea for the newsletter? Want to give a shout-out for your coworker? Send your ideas to Kaylan Storey at kaylan.storey@dhs.ga.gov.